French Community
SECS:AK

Index to taped interview of Mme. Lucienne Falconer, 11/28/83

	Time	Topic	
Background	0.0	Lead. Interviewer A. Kingsnorth. Language -- French. Setting -- Subject's home. Occasional interruption.	
		In discussing background in France, begins with late teens. (Researcher comment: Typically members of Sacramento's French community both on and off tape tend not to discuss their pre World War II experience.)	
		Left France as a professional singer. Travelled widely: Morocco, India, Afghanistan, Cambodia etc. Children born in Morocco.	
		In each place attempted to start up a French Club.	
	3.0	French and Russians in Kabul. Russian cultural attaché nicknamed the"first communist king".	
	7.0	French in Bangkok. Diplomatic life, in Cambodia.	
	8.0	Started French club in Washington State. Today continues friendship with this community.	
	10.0	French community on Algeria.	
	12.0	Mentions that husband worked in Federal Building in San Francisco. (Researcher comment: It is considered unacceptable to ask after an individual or spouse's occupation in the French community -- see AK report. This reference is important. In this case the interviewee and others have indicated that the subject's American spouse had been involved in some kind of fairly delicate government work abroad.)	*
French Class Consciousness	12.5	Arrival of French vessel in San Francisco. Highly stratified personell arrangement on board ship very different to US vessels.	
Sacto. Causeries françaises	15.5	Arrival in Sacramento. Noted meeting of Causeries françaises in newspaper.	
	17.0	Complains of cliquishness of club during her first three years. Recites accounts of being snubbed. Ice broken by Mme. Gùigner (leading light of Causeries françaises for two decades-- see report). Became secretary.	*
	19.0	Became president. Goal to end snobbishness. Membership grew from about a dozen to several hundred.	
	21.0	Increased size brought problems.	*
Present status	22.0	Community impersonal today. Far less involved with sick and bereaved. Cites example of recent illness of Claude Letellier, president of L'Union gauloise, versus prior treatment of M. Labataille.	*

Lucienne Falconer tape index continued.

	Time	Topic	
Snobbism	23.0	Describes further incident of exclusiveness of Causeries françaises during her early years of involvement. After three years as secretary, signing all letters to the membership, a member of the presidential election committee claims no knowledge of the subject. Interviewer asks for explanation of the reiterated exclusiveness -- suggests class consciousness involved. Subject denies this interpretation. Attributes it to historical closeness of earlier members in face of newcomer. (Researcher comment: the subject's interpretation was offered by another longterm member when this story was repeated to her by the researcher at a later date.)	
Camellia festival	24.5	Discusses Camellia festival, founded by a "French" man, M. Ed. Combatalade. (Researcher's comment E. Combatalade was in fact born in San Francisco of a French parent from Béarn -- see report.)	
Club present status	26.0	Discusses retiring state of Causeries françaises at present time. Suggests instigation of new club, L'Union gauloise, four years previously, partially responsible. (Researcher's comments: see report for other explanations).	*
French individualism	27.0	French very resistant to joining. (Researcher comment: see report for this view as veritable national self-image -- French as inveterate individualists).	*
Second generation	28.0	Second generation abilities with French language and culture. Burden is on female to pass on culture. US male suspicious of conversations between wife and children in language he cannot understand.	*
	29.0	Causeries françaises lack of involvement with second generation.	*

Key

SECS	Sacramento Ethnic Community Survey
AK	Alice Kingsnorth. Research Director- French Community
Report	"The Twentieth Century French Community in Sacramento", ms on file a History Center.
Causeries françaises	Sacramento's sixty year old French language and culture club. See report.
*	Comments utilized in report.

Lucienne Falconer, tape index continued.

	Time	Topic	
	Side B		
Past events	0.0	Dinners in the 1960's and 1970's	
	1.0	Early 1970's potluck. Dearth of males. Professor O'Rahailly (UCD) permitted to provide cheese. Only male present.	*
		Goal of Causeries françaises is to reveal the best of France.	
L'Union gauloise	1.5	Discusses L'Union gauloise (a four year old French club, which is couples dominated unlike Causeries françaises). Discussion of which gallic individuals belong to both clubs.	
Mme. Guigner	2.0	Mme. Guigner cited as most important president of Causeries françaises in the past. (Researcher's comment: it has been said that the subject herself has done more than anyone to vitalize the club, although several other individuals have also been pointed out in this way.)	*
Other French in Sacto.	3.0	Discussion of French wives of US military in area and their alleged lack of interest in joining clubs.	
Croissants	4.0	Local restaurants and the introduction of croissants to Sacramento by Vietnamese businessmen.	*
Wine	5.0	Change in US attitudes to wine consumption. Previously if the subject desired a glass of wine with dinner, she was suspected of alcoholism. Now good wine is generally available and enjoyed.	*
Michel Bloch	6.0	Waxes eloquent about Michel Bloch (founder of Crepe Daniel franchises), who is described as typically French and the best of France. (Researcher comment: the subject is aware that at a Union gauloise dinner dance, two weeks previously the interviewer sat with the Bloch family. On the other hand M. Bloch is perceived by other members of the community also as quintessentially French and the idealization of French values -- see report and also Michel Bloch taped interview.)	*

Thanks